

NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING FOR N.C. 125 (WILLIAMSTON BYPASS)
FROM EAST COLLEGE ROAD (STATE ROAD 1182) SOUTHWEST OF WILLIAMSTON
TO N.C. 125 NORTHWEST OF WILLIAMSTON

TIP Project No.: R-3826

Martin County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a design public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, from 4-7 p.m. at Martin Community College, Building 1, Room 14, in Williamston.

The proposed project involves constructing a 2.7-mile bypass of Williamston, mostly on a new location, from East College Road (State Road 1182) to the existing N.C. 125 northwest of Williamston. The purpose of this project is to reduce truck traffic and improve safety on existing N.C. 125 through downtown Williamston.

A three-lane highway is proposed from East College Road to the CSX Railroad track north of U.S. 64 Alternate. A two-lane road is proposed for portions of the bypass north of the railroad tracks. Approximately 100 feet of right of way will need to be acquired between East College Road and the railroad track, and 200 feet of right of way will be needed north of the railroad track.

Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2013, followed by construction beginning in 2015. These dates are tentative and are subject to change.

A corridor public hearing for the project was held on Sept. 17, 2009. Following the hearing, NCDOT developed a modified alignment of Alternative 1 (1A), which would have less impact on two farms within the project study area. Alternative 1A remains within the original project study area boundary, and is the preferred alternative for the project. Alternative 1A also affects the acquisition of fewer homes, wetlands and will cost less.

NCDOT representatives will be available in an informal setting to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will be provided and is encouraged. Interested citizens may attend at any time. There will not be a formal presentation.

Maps displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the environmental document, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), are currently available for public review at two locations: NCDOT Resident Engineer's Office at 19210 U.S. 64 East in Williamston and at the Martin Memorial Library at 200 N. Smithwick St. in Williamston. Copies of the maps are also available at http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/HearingMaps/hearingmaps_by_county/county/Martin.html

Anyone desiring additional information may contact NCDOT Human Environment Section, Senior Public Involvement Officer, Eileen Fuchs by phone at (919) 707-6067 or by email at: eafuchs@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments may be submitted to Ms. Fuchs until Oct. 12, 2012.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Fuchs as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

For persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, interpretive services will be available at the meeting upon request. For more information, please call 1-800-481-6494 prior to the meeting.